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PAGE 01 STATE 185676

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FOL RPT ISLAMABAD 7596 ACTION SECSTATE 26 JULY QUOTE

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TAGS: SNAR, PK,
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN EMBASSY AIDE MEMOIRE-NARCOTICS

REFERENCES: (A) STATE 172323; (B) ISLAMABAD 6771 (AIDAC),

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE MISSION COMMENTS ON AIDE MEMOIRE FROM PAK EMB TO DEPT DATED JULY 9. COMMENTS ARE BASED IN PART ON JUNE 26 DISCUSSION WHICH USAID DIRECTOR HAD ON NARCOTICS MATTERS WITH SECRETARY, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION AND CHAIRMAN, PNCB. PARAGRAPHS 2-6 CORRESPOND TO NUMBERING IN REF (A). END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER PRESSURE FROM EMB, UN, AND LOWER LEVEL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN PNCB, THE GOP BY SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF ISSUING AN ORDINANCE HAS GRANTED PNCB OFFICERS INVESTIGATIVE, ARREST AND ENTRY AUTHORITY, BUT THIS WAS ONLY COMPLETED ABOUT ONE YEAR AFTER THE FIRST GROUP OF FIELD INVESTIGATIVE OFFICERS WERE COMMISSIONED. AS FOR THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE NARCOTICS LEGISLATION, IT HAS BEEN IN THE GOP CLEARANCE PROCESS FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS. THE EMB AND UN HAVE
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PAGE 02 STATE 185676

REGULARLY BEEN PROMISED SPECIFIC DATES AS TO WHEN THIS

LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, OR ALTERNATELY, PROCLAIMED AS A PRESIDENTIAL ORDINANCE, AND SO FAR NONE HAVE BEEN MET. ON JULY 12, 1976, DITTERT, INCB SECRETARY, WAS TOLD THAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE OCTOBER 1976 SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. RAOOF ALI TOLD AID DIRECTOR JUNE 26 THAT ALL CLEARANCES HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM OTHER MINISTRIES AND THAT IT WAS WITH THE LAW MINISTRY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. IT IS TRUE THAT THE NUMBER OF NARCOTICS SEIZURES IN PAKISTAN HAS INCREASED REMARKABLY SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PNCB. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES HAVE BEEN EITHER ACCOMPLISHED BY CUSTOMS, OR TAX AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, OR HAVE BEEN BASED UPON COMPLETE INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED BY DEA OR THIRD COUNTRY AGENCIES. THE RECENT OPERATION AGAINST THE NARCOTICS LABORATORIES IN THE TRIBAL AREAS WAS A DRAMATIC SUCCESS BUT PROBABLY WOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY DEA URGING HERE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. PNCB HAS NOT YET BEGUN TO ESTABLISH AN ORGANIZED INTELLIGENCE INFO BASE, HAS NOT ENCOURAGED ITS OFFICERS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON INVESTIGATIONS FROM START TO FINISH, HAS TRANSFERRED SOME OF ITS MOST EFFECTIVE OFFICERS TO LESS DESIRABLE POSTS, AND HAS OFTEN IGNORED GOOD LEADS. US SOURCES AND OTHER GOP OFFICIALS OFFERED TO ASSIST PNCB BY IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC VEHICLES CARRYING NEW OPIUM GUM OUT OF PRODUCING AREAS IN MAY AND JUNE 1976 BUT PNCB ASSURED US THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY SINCE THEY HAD THIS UNDER CONTROL WHEN IN FACT NO WAS TAKEN.

4. THE 22 FIELD INVESTIGATIVE UNITS (FIU'S) WHICH THE GOP CLAIMS TO HAVE IN OPERATION CANNOT BE CONSIDERED EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNITS. IN MOST CASES, THEY ARE LITTLE MORE THAN PAPER UNITS CONSISTING OF VEHICLES ASSIGNED TO A GROUP OF PERSONS (MANY FROM OTHER ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES) IN A SPECIFIC AREA OF OPERATION. MOST FIU'S DO NOT HAVE OFFICES (OR PHONES OR RADIOS) OR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 185676

AND MANY ARE SHORT STAFFED. SOME FIU'S CLAIM TO BE UNABLE TO OPERATE DUE TO BUDGETARY RATIONING OF FUEL. IN ORDER TO BRING SPECIFIC GOP FOCUS ON THESE PROBLEMS, THE AID DIRECTOR ASKED FOR A UNIT-BY-UNIT REPORT ON THE EXACT STATUS OF FIU DEVELOPMENT. THE GOP AGREED TO SUPPLY THIS BY JULY 15, BUT IT HAS YET TO BE RECEIVED. WE ARE FOLLOWING UP FOR WE NEED THIS INFORMATION TO MEASURE THE PRECISE EXTENT OF FIU OPERATIONAL

DEFICIENCIES AND TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE PROBLEMS. AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, THERE ARE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH THE US IS RESPONSIBLE. THE SOLUTION DEPENDS ON JOINT ACTION; AND WE ARE AWAITING GOP AGREEMENT TO APPROPRIATE TRAINING OF ITS PERSONNEL. PNCB HAS TAKEN THE FIRST STEP BY ASSIGNING TWO OF ITS STAFF TO THE PAK COAST GUARD FOR COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING; THESE PEOPLE WOULD BECOME INSTRUCTORS OF OTHERS. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION BUT BELIEVE MORE PEOPLE AT THE INSTRUCTOR LEVEL ARE NEEDED IF SUFFICIENT NUMBERS ARE TO BE TRAINED. PNCB AGREED TO CONSIDER PROGRAMMING A TOTAL OF SIX OF ITS STAFF FOR INSTRUCTOR TRAINING. WE WILL PURSUE THIS MATTER.

5. THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT THIS PAST CROP YEAR IN THE LICENSING AND CONTROL OF LICIT OPIUM GUM PRODUCTION IN THE SETTLED AREAS, MUCH OF THIS BEING ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DISTRICT OPIUM OFFICER IN NWFP. THE CHAIRMAN, PNCB, UPON CONSTANT PRODDING FROM USAID, DID PROVIDE OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS OFFICER WHICH ENABLED HIM TO PERFORM HIS FUNCTIONS RELATIVELY WELL. HOWEVER, WE HEAR DISQUIETING RUMORS HE MAY BE TRANSFERRED. MOREOVER, THE PNCB FAILED TO PROVIDE VEHICULAR AND MANPOWER SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN A CONTINUOUS PRESENCE IN THE GROWING AREA. THUS, THERE CONTINUES TO BE SIGNIFICANT ILLICIT PRODUCTION. THE WRITTEN ASSURANCES OF THE GOP AIDE MEMOIRE MAY GIVE US A TOOL WHICH CAN BE USEFUL IN OUR FURTHER PURSUIT OF PROPER CONTROL OBJECTIVES.

6. USAID HAS REVIEWED THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM WITH THE GOP ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION (WITH PNCB IN ATTENDANCE). ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS. THESE REVIEWS HAVE RESULTED IN GOP PROMISES TO PRODUCE CERTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 185676

SPECIFIC SCHEDULES OF ACTIVITIES TO TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, PERFORMANCE TO DATE HAS BEEN POOR. ACTION PROMISED FOR LAST NOVEMBER'S PLANTING SEASON WERE COMPLETED LATE AND WERE NOT ADEQUATE. THE PROMISED DATES ON OTHER ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN REF (B) HAVE PASSED WITHOUT FULLFILLMENT. USAID DIRECTOR HAS PROPOSED AND PNCB AGREED TO HOLD REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS TO REVIEW OVERALL PROGRESS ON THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT: IN THE ABOVE, WE HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THE NEGATIVE SINCE WE HAVE FOUND IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP THAT WHEN WE MENTION THE BRIGHT SPOTS ALONG WITH THE NEGATIVE, THE NEGATIVE IS IGNORED OR FORGOTTEN BY THE GOP AND OUR MESSAGE IS TAKEN AS ESSENTIALLY CON-

GRATULATORY. THE POINT WHICH SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED IS THAT THE PNCB HAS NOT MOVED EFFECTIVELY, AND SUCH SUCCESS AS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN CROP LICENSING AND IN THE FEW SIGNIFICANT CASES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS GOES LARGELY TO OTHER AGENCIES OF THE GOP OR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

8. WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPT HOLD ANOTHER MEETING WITH PAK EMB AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PNCB MAKE ALL FIU'S FULLY OPERATIONAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. USAID HAS OFFERED TO ASSIST WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ASSURE THAT THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY USAID IS FULLY OPERATIONL. PNCB NEEDS ALSO TO MOVE AHEAD WITH TRAINING, STAFFING AND PROCUREMENT OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES TO HOUSE FIU'S. PNCB THEN NEEDS TO BECOME MORE OPERATIONALLY INVOLVED ITSELF IN INTELLIGENCE AND ENFORCEMENT.

(B) USAID HAS MADE A GRANT OF \$50,000 TO THE GOVERNMENT TO FINANCE A BASELINE SURVEY OF THE MAJOR POPPY GROWING AREA IN THE SWABI TEHSIL AS A BASIS FOR PREPARING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN THE GADOON AREA. HOWEVER, A CREDIBLE LONG-RANGE LICENSING/ENFORCEMENT PLAN FOR THE POPPY GROWING AREAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 05 STATE 185676

IS A PRECONDITION TO THE USG PROVIDING A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR THE POPPY GROWING AREAS.

(C) WE WELCOME THE NEWS THAT THE BASIC NARCOTICS LEGISLATION HAS BEEN CLEARED BY CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND IS NOW WITH THE LAW MINISTRY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. WE AWAIT EARLY ACTION ON THIS LEGISLATION.

9. AFTER THE DEPT HAS DISCUSSED THE ABOVE WITH PAK EMB, THE MISSIONS PLANS TO APPROACH MFA ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

10. FURTHER DETAILS ON THE NARCOTICS CONTROL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN WILL BE IN THE NCAP SUBMISSION WHCIH WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.
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